

and served as a school administrator to thousands in this bustling community, and their admiration showed in the huge turnout and many gifts that were presented in her honor during a retirement ceremony this past November.

At the ceremony honored guests, colleagues, and friends spoke about the many special memories they had of her. Appropriately, Meeks was presented with a portrait of Anne of Green Gables, whom a Canadian educator made famous in a series of novels. She was also presented with a U.S. flag flown at the Capitol and a letter of congratulations from U.S. Congressman JACK KINGSTON (R-GA). Among other items that she received were: A scrapbook with newspaper clippings, a State flag and a proclamation from the Georgia Legislature, and a special gift from the teachers and staff of Richmond Hill Primary School. Media specialist Bob Fennel presented Meeks with a plaque rededicating the library at the school in her name. Also a scholarship was announced by the Bryan Bank and Trust in her name that will benefit aspiring teachers.

A 1953 graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in home economics, she began her teaching career in Richmond Hill as a home economics instructor in 1954. She was certified in elementary education at Georgia Southern College in 1956. By 1975, and several teaching positions later, Meeks received her masters in elementary education from nearby Armstrong State College in Savannah.

Throughout her life, Meeks has taught at different grade levels at several schools. It was not until 1976 that she shifted gears and began serving at the administration level. Since that time, she served as assistant principal for 5 years and principal for 14. All of those who have worked with Meeks share an equal admiration for her innovative approach to working with children. She was always open to new ideas and had an open door policy with her colleagues.

Among the groups that Meeks is, or was, a part of are: PAGE [Professional Association of Georgia Educators], Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Epsilon Sigma Alpha International, PTSO, SACS Initial Accreditation Team and the Georgia Association of Elementary Schools. She has served as a Sunday school teacher, organized the Richmond Hill Garden Club, organized the annual Richmond Hill Fourth of July celebration and organized the Richmond Hill unit of the American Heart Association.

It is difficult to sum up the impact that Meeks has had on this growing southeast Georgia community, but not too many people can claim such a gala event at their retirement ceremony. The many items presented to Meeks reflect the deep rooted feelings of those whom she has touched throughout her life. She will most definitely be missed in the education field of Georgia. She will now be able to spend some quality time with her grandchildren and enjoy the good life. Assuming the role as principal of the Richmond Hill Primary School will be Dahlia Davis. She will no doubt have some tough shoes to fill.

## NEW BEDFORD HONORS LEON DASH

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on Martin Luther King Day I was very pleased to be able to attend a breakfast organized by the Black Professional Association of New Bedford, MA.

The event was attended by hundreds of people, and was an impressive tribute to Dr. King. The main speaker at the breakfast was, very appropriately, Leon Dash, now an award winning reporter for the Washington Post, and a native of New Bedford.

Mr. Dash's speech was an extraordinarily thoughtful and informative discussion of the problems of teenage pregnancy. It reflected the painstaking and creative investigative work he has done on this subject, and indeed Mr. Dash's work represents one of the major contributions that anyone has made to our understanding of this important problem.

The quality of the speech Mr. Dash gave is an indication of the high quality of the work he has done as a journalist and sociologist over the past several decades. After graduating from Howard University in 1968, he worked as a reporter at the Washington Post, and then joined the Peace Corps serving as a volunteer teaching in a rural high school in Kenya from 1969 to 1970. In 1971 he returned to the Post, serving from 1979 to 1984 as West Africa's bureau chief. At that point he joined the newspaper's investigative desk where he continues to work and where he does enormously important journalism.

His book on teenage pregnancy, "When Children Want Children: The Urban Crisis in Teenage Childbearing" was published in 1989, and he has also coauthored "The Shame of the Prisons" which was published in 1972. Last year, along with Washington Post photographer Lucian Perkins, Mr. Dash won the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism. He also in that year won first prize for print journalism from the Robert F. Kennedy Book and Journalism awards. And in 1990 his book received a PEN/Martha Albrand special citation for nonfiction work. He has also won the Washington Independent Writers President's Award for excellence in urban affairs reporting, first prize—Public Service from the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild, the international reporting awards of Africare and the Capitol Press Club, and the George Polk Award of the Overseas Press Club. Mr. Dash has won a number of other awards as well, and they reflect the extremely high quality of his work, and his dedication to helping provide our society with the information we need if we are to deal seriously with the problems that confront us.

Racism is the unhappiest legacy of our Nation's history. We have struggled hard with this terrible legacy over the past decades, and we have made significant progress in lessening its terrible affects. But much remains to be done, and our ability to continue this work in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, is enormously enhanced by the kind of serious, thoughtful and intellectually honest work that Leon Dash does. There is no greater service that someone can perform than to give to a democracy

the information it needs if it is to deal honestly with its gravest problems. Leon Dash does this with excellence and commitment.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I would like the RECORD to show that I was unavoidable detained for rollcall votes 13, 14, and 15. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 2657, S. 1341, and H.R. 2726. Thank you.

## RECOGNIZING U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPION RUDY GALINDO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of my constituent, Rudy Galindo who—as of Saturday, January 20, in his native city of San Jose, California—became the reigning U.S. figure skating champion.

While that accomplishment alone is worthy of accolades and admiration, it is even more praiseworthy when one considers the personal tragedy and professional obstacles Rudy had to overcome to capture the gold medal at this year's national championship.

Rudy first rose to national prominence in the skating world when he and Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi combined their talents to win the 1989 and 1990 pairs competition.

Following their success, both skaters embarked on solo careers. But Rudy had much more to contend with than the adversaries he would face on the ice.

Personal tragedy struck the Galindo family in 1993 when his father suffered a fatal heart attack and his brother died from symptoms related to AIDS that same year. Rudy had already lost his coach, Jim Hulick, to cancer in 1989. If that were not enough, another of Rudy's coaches, Rick Inglesi, died of AIDS in 1995.

Despite his personal loss and professional setbacks, Rudy persevered, even though the odds were often not in his favor.

To win the national championship, he had to best a field of nationally recognized skaters, including two former national champions.

Unlike many of his competitors, Rudy could not afford some of the advantages available to other skaters who had secured the financial backing of sponsors and skating organizations to subsidize their training costs.

Rudy paid for his own choreographer, his own costumes, and his own music, and got his sister, Laura Galindo, to serve as his coach. To cover the costs of his career, Rudy taught skating to children in his spare time. He lived with his mother and rode his bike to work.

In spite of the obstacles he encountered, San Jose's Rudy Galindo—bolstered by the highly charged cheers of a hometown audience—skated into the history books last Saturday night, becoming the first Mexican-American to win the national championship.